

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name \_\_\_\_\_

other names/site number Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield historic District at Pamplin Historical Park;  
Pamplin Historical Park; VDHR File Number: 026-5013

### 2. Location

street & number 6125 Boydton Plant Road, 6619 Duncan Road not for publication  
city or town Petersburg vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Dinwiddie code 053 Zip 23803

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: \_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register Date of Action

(Rev. 10-90)

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****5. Classification**

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>18</u> buildings
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>48</u>	<u>8</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>62</u>	<u>27</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DEFENSE</u>	Sub: <u>Battle Site</u>
<u></u>	<u>Fortification</u>
<u></u>	<u>Military Facility</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u></u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RECREATION &amp; CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>Museum</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>Park</u>

**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival  
MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Gothic Revival  
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal  
COLONIAL: Georgian

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK; CONCRETEroof WOOD; METAL: TIN; ASPHALTwalls WOOD; BRICK; STONEother BRICK; WOOD; STONE: GRANITEfortifications EARTHEN CONSTRUCTION

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)MILITARYARCHITECTUREARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC NON-ABORIGINALPeriod of Significance 1750 - 1865

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## U. S. Department of the Interior

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Significant Dates September 30 – October 2, 1864 \_\_\_\_\_

March 25, 1865 \_\_\_\_\_

April 2, 1865 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder C.S. Army \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

\_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

\_\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

\_X\_ State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property 415 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

1 18 281225 4119000 2 18 281340 4117800

3 18 280175 4116660 4 18 279375 4117805

\_X\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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(Rev. 10-90)

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**name/title: Jill Pascoe, Collections and Cultural Resources SpecialistOrganization: Pamplin Historical Park date 2/10/2003street & number: 6125 Boydton Plank Road telephone 804 861-2408city or town Petersburg state VA zip code 23803

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Pamplin Foundationstreet & number 805 SW Broadway, Suite 2400 telephone 503-248-1133city or town Portland state OR zip code 97205

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**1. Name of Property**

VDHR 26-162; VDHR 26-95; VDHR 26-5001; VDHR 26-163; VDHR 123-6026; VDHR 26-5007

**2. Location**

6411 Duncan Road, 6501 Duncan Road, 6507 Duncan Road, 6513 Duncan Road, 6523 Duncan Road, 6610 Duncan Road, 6915 Duncan Road, and 25402 Hofheimer Way.

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## **7. Summary Description**

Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield Historic District at Pamplin Historical Park (Pamplin Historical Park) is a 415-acre historic district located in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. The property was the site during the American Civil War of the Union army's breakthrough of the Confederate defenses of Petersburg on April 2, 1865. In the six months prior to that battle, Confederate troops occupying the property had constructed earthwork fortifications through what is now the park. Pamplin Historical Park preserves and interprets the battlefield, the Confederate entrenchments, four historic structures, eight other archaeological sites, and eighteen non-contributing buildings. Tudor Hall, the Boisseau family farm, dates to 1812. It was originally a two-and-a-half story, four-bay, wood-frame residence on a raised brick basement. It was constructed with Georgian/Federal-style characteristics and was renovated and expanded using Greek Revival style elements in the 1850s. The Banks House was constructed in three stages between 1750 and 1810 and is generally Georgian-transitional in style, and is an example of an evolved house. Its kitchen/slave quarter was built about 1840 or 1850 and is a duplex on either side of a shared chimney. The Hart House is a Gothic Revival cottage constructed in the 1860s. The archaeological sites are generally features created by the soldiers. The noncontributing buildings are generally those constructed by Pamplin Historical Park for museum use or to replicate historic outbuildings.

## **Detailed Description**

Pamplin Historical Park is located on Boydton Plank Road (U.S. Highway 1) in northeastern Dinwiddie County near the city of Petersburg. The area is in the uplands near the heads of Rohoic Creek, which drains into the Appomattox River, and Arthur's Swamp, which drains into the Nottoway River. Soils in the park consist of sand and sandy loam. Much of the site is forested with mixed hardwoods and pines. Surrounding properties are primarily residential, with some undeveloped land. Pamplin Historical Park preserves and interprets a Civil War battlefield that saw three battles as part of the Petersburg Campaign in 1864 and 1865, original earthwork fortifications and other defensive structures constructed by Confederate soldiers, four historic structures (three houses and a slave quarter), and several archaeological resources.

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**List of Resources** – Resources are grouped as they are found on site and are numbered as they are on the large map that accompanies this nomination

1. Tudor Hall; Boisseau Farm (44DW284, VDHR 26-162, VDHR 26-95) 6610 Duncan Road  
Contributing Building
2. Boisseau Family Cemetery/Tudor Hall Site (44DW284) Contributing Site
3. 44DW207 Contributing Site
4. Tudor Hall well Contributing Structure
5. Tudor Hall lane Contributing Structure
6. Tudor Hall reconstructed outbuildings (3) Non-Contributing Buildings
7. Water Pump Non-Contributing Structure
8. Field Quarters (2) Non-Contributing Buildings
9. Reproduction Corncrib Non-contributing Structure
10. Reproduction Chicken Coop Non-Contributing Structure
11. Banks House; Wakefield, Lanier House (VDHR 26-5001) 25402 Hofheimer Way  
Contributing Building
12. Banks House Kitchen/Slave Quarter Contributing Building
13. Banks House well Contributing Structure
14. Smokehouse Non-Contributing Building
15. Hart House; Carr House; 6915 Duncan Road (VDHR 26-163) Contributing Building
16. Hart House wells (3) Contributing Structures
17. Hart Farm lane Contributing Structure
18. 44DW205 Contributing Site
19. Six-Gun Battery (44DW206) Contributing Site
20. Harmon House Site; Harmon Red House; Red House (44DW211) Contributing Site
21. Battlefield (VDHR 123-6026, VDHR 26-5007) Contributing Site
22. Confederate earthworks (44DW200) Contributing Structure
23. Reproduction earthworks Non Contributing Structure
24. Confederate military dams (2) Contributing Structures
25. Confederate rifle pits (38) Contributing structures
26. Site of Confederate winter huts of McGowan's Brigade (44DW201) Contributing Site



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27. Replica Winter Huts (3) **Non-Contributing Buildings**

28. Battlefield Center 6523 Duncan Road **Non-Contributing Building**

29. Education Pavilion **Non-Contributing Structure**

30. National Museum of the Civil War Soldier; 6125 Boydton Plank Road **Non-Contributing Building**

31. Interpretive equipment shed **Non-Contributing Building**

32. Gazebo **Non-Contributing Structure**

33. Sculpture outside the NMCWS **Non-Contributing Object**

34. 44DW283 Contributing Site

35. Operations Building 6411 Duncan Road **Non-Contributing Building**

36. Pole Barn **Non-Contributing Structure**

37. 44DW210 Contributing Site

38. Park Administrative Headquarters, Procise House, 6619 Duncan Road **Non-Contributing Building**

39. Powder Magazine **Non-Contributing Building**

40. Old Logging Roadway **Non-Contributing Structure**

41. Residences at 6507 and 6513 Duncan Road (2) **Non-Contributing Buildings**

42. Gerow Ruritan Club House; VDHR 26-262 6501 Duncan Road **Non-Contributing Building**

43. 44DW209 Contributing Site

Detailed Descriptions of Resources

Tudor Hall Plantation  
(Photographs 1 & 2)

Tudor Hall was constructed in 1812 on high ground near the stream known as Arthur's Swamp. The house faced north toward a road known as "Lew Jones Road" and "Courthouse Road" which later became the Petersburg and Boydton Plank Road (now U. S. Highway 1). At an as yet unknown date, a farm lane called Duncan's (later Duncan) Road was built through the property to the east of Tudor Hall. This road was probably constructed in stages and eventually

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connected surrounding farms to the Squirrel Level and Vaughan roads south of the house. All of these roads were used to roll the large hogsheads of tobacco from the fields to the warehouses in Petersburg.<sup>1</sup>

The house was originally constructed as a two-and-a-half story, four-bay, wood-frame residence constructed on a raised brick basement. This two-room, hall-and-parlor plan was a traditional form popular in Dinwiddie County during the latter part of the 1700s and the early part of the 1800s. Two mantels that embellish the first-floor fireplaces at Tudor Hall exhibit transitional Georgian/Federal-style characteristics. Both mantels are similar and appear to be original to the house. The form and proportions of the mantels, their primitive stop-fluted pilasters on each side, and the denticulated cornice, are similar to transitional mantels found in other Dinwiddie County houses dating from the turn of the nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

Originally, there were exterior brick chimneys at both of the gable ends of the house. Only the chimney on the west end survives. This chimney also has a transitional form that exhibits both Georgian and Federal-style characteristics. Its Georgian characteristics include its two sets of weatherings. The lower set is tiled or covered with bricks with their flat faces slanted to form a smooth, weather-resistant surface. The upper set of weatherings are corbelled, or stepped, and are more characteristic of the Federal style. The chimney stack, however, is set well away from the roof ridge, exemplifying an earlier, Georgian-style method of construction. The original sections of the foundation and the west end chimney are constructed of three-course American bond. According to descendants of the family that lived in the house in the 1870s, the new residents found an old brick kiln on the property. This may indicate that bricks for Tudor Hall were made on the site.

A sloped scar is found on the north and south faces of the chimney on the west end of Tudor Hall. This scar appears to be indicative of a missing building feature. Comparative analysis with other structures in the county of comparable appearance and vintage shows two possibilities, either a pair of shed-roofed closets or a porch. Based on the absence of corroborating foundation evidence, the porch seems to be the more likely feature.<sup>3</sup>

Between 1851 and 1857, a major renovation was undertaken on the house. This included a one-bay addition on the east end of the structure, extending and enlarging the east room. The original end wall was removed, and a new partition wall was constructed to create a center hall. Tudor Hall's original stair was removed from the east wall of the west parlor to the newly constructed center hall. A handsome Greek Revival-style stair was constructed there, with a molded handrail and elegantly turned, tapered balusters. However, the original stair from the

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west bedroom to the attic was retained. The interior woodwork in the center hall and the rooms on the east side of the center hall on both the first and second floors was refurbished in the Greek Revival style. A Greek Revival-style mantel was installed in the east bedroom on the second floor, but the original mantel was retained in the west bedroom. The original interior woodwork was retained, including baseboards, chair rails, and door and window architraves, in rooms on the west side of the hall on both the first and second floors and in the attic.

On the exterior, Greek Revival-style entrance porches were constructed on the front and rear elevations of the house. The original nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first-floor and nine-over-six sash windows on the second floor were replaced with six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on both floors. The new windows had larger panes of glass that had the effect of updating the exterior appearance of the house and matched the wider and taller proportions of the new Greek Revival-style woodwork inside. Many of the original six-panel, Federal-style doors were replaced with four-panel, Greek Revival-style doors at this time. The front and rear entrances to the house were moved a few feet to the east to line up with the center of the new hall, and new Greek Revival-style entrance doorways were constructed, complete with wide four-panel doors, transoms, and sidelights. Joseph Boisseau also dismantled and removed the chimney on the east end of the house, replacing it with one that is flush with the facade and has the chimney breast projecting into the interior.

It is possible that the kitchen was moved from a separate building to the basement of the house at this time and a wood dining room floor was installed. Iron stoves were readily available during the 1850s from iron foundries in Petersburg and Richmond, and quickly became popular because of their convenience and the reduced chance of fire.<sup>4</sup>

During the late 1800s and throughout the early to mid-1900s changes were made to Tudor Hall. Sometime in the late 1800s, the windows in the rooms on the west side of the hall were replaced. Most of the windows in the basement appear to have been replaced at the same time. It is possible that only the windows on the east side of the house were replaced during the 1851-1857 renovation, and that the original windows in the rooms on the west side of the house were left in place. Then, about 1870, the original windows were probably replaced due to decay and damage. The original partition wall between the two rooms of the basement was removed during

the late 1900s, but the basement was still used as a dining-family room. Closets were installed in several spaces, and extensive repairs were made to the exterior. A small bathroom addition was added onto the back porch, necessitating widening of the porch deck and roof, removal of siding, and the installation of a new doorway. In 1953, a concrete floor was put in the basement. Other alterations about this time included replacing most of the exterior siding with new boards of comparable size and profile as the original beaded clapboards. Basement remodeling included

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installation of a modern kitchen in the west room, new ceiling and floor finishes, and the installation of a motorized chair lift.<sup>5</sup>

Pamplin Historical Park has restored Tudor Hall to its appearance in 1864-1865, eliminating all of the changes made after this time. This work, done in 1995, was supervised by the firm of Farmer, Puckett, Warner Architects of Charlottesville and was based upon extensive research and plans drawn by John Milner Associates, Inc., of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Since the original roof was no longer present, the current wood shingle roof was put in place at this time. The placement of exhibits in its rooms allows visitors the unique opportunity to see how the house was used by both civilians as their residence and by Confederate officers as a military headquarters. Rooms on the east side of the home are furnished as they might have looked in the spring of 1864 when Joseph and Ann Boisseau lived there. The rooms on the west side appear as they would have when used by Brigadier General Samuel McGowan and his staff officers during the winter of 1864-1865.

In addition to the main house, the plantation includes two contributing sites and two contributing structures. The first site is a family cemetery, which is currently surrounded by simple stone blocks and contains the remains of Martha E.T. Jones and her infant twins (all of whom died in 1840) in one grave covered with a small brick foundation/vault. The foundation still remains, but the tombstone and remains were moved to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg. There are also three unidentified graves consisting of a row of regularly spaced pits aligned on a north/south axis.<sup>6</sup> The original gate to the cemetery is in Pamplin Historical Park's architectural salvage collection.

Archaeological investigations in 1995 by John Milner Associates, Inc. and in 1997 by CHRS Archaeology, Architecture and Preservation Services at a site identified as 44DW284 also revealed the location of twenty outbuildings (including the 1850s kitchen) through post hole placement and concentrations of architectural elements, the 1810 builder's trench and over 2000 artifacts which helped to explain some of the uses of the outbuildings. Additionally artifacts providing a link to the Civil War occupation were found including Minie balls, bullets, etc.<sup>7</sup> The other contributing site, 44DW207, is on the west side of Duncan Road, near Tudor Hall. The cluster of artifacts recovered measured approximately 60 feet by 40 feet, and included slate fragments, nails, brick fragments, 19<sup>th</sup>-century bottle glass, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century fragments. It is believed this assemblage represents the remains of an outbuilding associated with Tudor Hall, possibly a slave quarter. The archaeological work was conducted for the Virginia Department of Transportation by Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994.

The two contributing structures include a stone-lined well to the west of the house, and the Tudor Hall Drive. The modern gravel drive running westward from Duncan Road to the

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front of Tudor Hall stands on the location of a lane that served the house at the time of the Civil War (and which is shown on the attached U.S. army engineer's map drawn by Nathaniel Michler in 1867 (Map of Union Siegeworks and Confederate Defenses around the City of Petersburg).

The property also contains three non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing structure. The first building is a Kitchen/Quarter built in 1999, side-gabled, clapboard, with a central chimney and wooden shingle roof, designed based on archaeological evidence on and the original slave quarter at the Banks Plantation. The other buildings are a pump house (1996), and a shed (1999). Both are simple side-gabled, clapboard buildings, with wood shingle roofs. The structure is a period-looking water pump, built in 2001. It is a 10-foot square wooden box with a reproduction iron pump used to hide the modern sewer access.

In a field near Tudor Hall is Pamplin Historical Park's Field Quarters Exhibit, which, contains two non-contributing buildings and two non-contributing structures, all of which were constructed in 2001. Both buildings are replica field slave quarters, one of which is a log hut with a wooden plank roof and a wood and clay chimney at the gable end. The other is a simple clapboard side-gabled building with a brick chimney at the gable end and a wood shingle roof. Both buildings are built on raised brick piers. The latter structure houses exhibits about slavery and the pre-War controversy concerning the expansion of slavery. The two structures are replicas of simple agricultural buildings. One is a corncrib, a simple log structure, with a wood shingle roof. The other is a chicken coop, a primitive wooden structure, with a small door for the chickens, and a steeply-pitched wood shingle roof.

Banks House Plantation  
(Photographs 3 and 4)

The Banks House is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Dinwiddie County. It is a typical example of an evolved house with Georgian transitional characteristics. Additions to the house were made as wealth and family size increased over time. The oldest part of the house is the story-and-a-half frame structure located at the southern end. Architectural details suggest that this building was constructed sometime between 1750 and 1760, followed shortly thereafter by a rear "shed" addition. The next building sequence occurred between 1795 and 1800 when the large, two-story frame wing was added. The final addition was made sometime around 1810 when the early portion of the house was re-sided and a small pantry was added to the shed extension. The house, which faces west, has a brick foundation and a metal roof.<sup>8</sup>

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The original section has one room on the first floor with a turned stair leading to a garret room on the second floor. Windows in this section are six-over-six on the ground floor and four-

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over-four in the garret room. It is believed that the fireplaces in this section were removed in 1800 when the two-story wing was added. The original roof on this section was likely removed during the 1800 renovation. The current metal roof was likely installed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1800 two-story wing is a two-bay side hall plan. The hall is quite wide, which was typical of houses built in Virginia prior to 1800, and was probably used as an additional room. The windows on the main floor of this wing are nine-over-nine and six-over-nine on the second floor.

The original roof on this portion of the house was covered with round-butt wood shingles and was replaced by the mid-nineteenth century. The current standing seam metal roof was likely installed in the late nineteenth century. The front entrance to the 1800 wing has an unusual Georgian-style nine-panel door. The back four-panel door is a late-nineteenth-century replacement, however, the original "HL" hinges were reused. The original "HL" hinges, box locks, and rim locks are still in place throughout the house. The stair has a fixed newel post, a fine handrail and delicate turned balusters. The mantle in the 1800 parlor shows classical detailing in the Georgian transitional style; it is better than that found in most surrounding houses. Alterations were made to the house in more recent years, most significantly the addition of aluminum siding and a modern kitchen and screened-porch addition in the 1950s. The siding obscured the transoms over the entry door, as well as hiding the original weatherboard.<sup>9</sup>

Landmark Preservation Associates of Charlottesville, Virginia, completed an historic structures report on the Banks House and its outbuildings in 1999. Later that year, John Milner Associates, Inc., of Alexandria, Virginia, directed the restoration and rehabilitation of the house. This included removing the aluminum siding and the addition that had been installed in the 1950s and repainting using period-appropriate colors discovered during paint analysis. A representative sample of the original building fabric removed at that time is held by Pamplin Historical Park for future reference in an architectural salvage collection. The house's entry hall and parlor were restored to their appearance in 1865 and are open to visitors. A park employee uses the remainder of the structure as a residence.

In addition to the main house the Banks plantation also includes one contributing building and one contributing structure. The building is the Banks House Kitchen/Quarter (photograph 5), which was built about 1840 or 1850 also facing west. The kitchen/quarter is a late example of brace timber framing. The foundation consists of routed "L"-shaped corner posts that are mortised and tenoned into the sills and braced with diagonal braces. The building is sided-gabled with a wood shingle roof. The windows are four-over-four sash that appear to have been salvaged from other earlier buildings. The chimney firebox was constructed of granite while the

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stack was built of brick. The kitchen/quarter is essentially two separate apartments on either side of a shared center chimney under a single roof. The chimney itself has four fireplaces, with two

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on each floor. The double-pen design and frame construction of the Banks House quarter is typical of Big House slave quarters built during the late antebellum period in Virginia. It is one of the few surviving slave quarters in the state.<sup>10</sup> In 1999, John Milner Associates, Inc., of Alexandria, Virginia, directed the stabilization and restoration of the kitchen quarter to its antebellum appearance. Seventy-five to eighty-five percent of the original building fabric was retained. A representative sample of original building fabric removed during this restoration has been kept for future reference in an architectural salvage collection. The contributing structure is the Banks House well, which is marked by a depression in the ground. The brick well was destroyed in the early 1990s.

The property also contains one non-contributing building: a smokehouse built between 1900-1930, situated between the kitchen and the house, facing south. It is a simple frame structure with a front-gable, wood shingle roof, and is built on the foundation of an earlier structure. The construction technique and some of the hardware appear to be from an earlier building on which this design was based.

Hart House and Farm  
(Photographs 6 and 7)

The Hart House stands on a rise immediately south of Arthur Swamp. Historically the house had some outbuildings, and a line of earthworks extended across the property during the Civil War. Around 1945 the earthworks south of the house were leveled, but there are still sections of earthworks that remain north of the house. With its open terrain the landscape around the Hart House and the house itself have maintained much of their historic integrity.

From tax records it appears that construction of the Gothic Revival-style Hart House had begun by 1861, as the total value of the land and buildings was then \$800. The Hart House was a frame structure that faced southwest and was a story and a half over a basement. Both the first floor and the basement had four rooms. According to the last owner of this property the half-story remained unfinished until he completed work on it in the 1950s.

The exterior of the Hart house has plain unbeaded weatherboard with a wood shingle roof. The shaped and sawnwork trim around the eaves is typical of Gothic Revival ornamentation. The corbelled chimney has been embellished with dentils and the gable ends of the house have sawn verge boards and turned finials. The foundation of the house prior to restoration had stucco over brick, which had been scored to resemble granite blocks. In the

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1940s asbestos shingles were placed over the weatherboard, but the last owner of the property removed these. Also in the 1940s a concrete block addition was placed on the north end of the house. The windows in the house are two-over-two sash. There is a main brick hearth and flue

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between the two front rooms on the first floor. The stairs to the second story and the basement are steep and treacherous, and both are hidden behind doors. One of the walls separating two of the rooms in the basement was removed in the past fifty years. Evidence still remains on the basement plaster walls of decorative stenciling.<sup>11</sup>

It is known that outbuildings existed on the Hart Farm by 1874 and that at that time they were considered to be deteriorating. However, it is uncertain at this time when they were constructed and what stood on the property. When the most recent owner of the property purchased the farm in 1950 no original outbuildings remained. Modern outbuildings including a garage, three sheds, an aviary and a barn were intact on the land when the Pamplin Foundation purchased the property.

In 2000, Marcellus Wright Cox & Smith, Architects, of Richmond, Virginia, restored the exterior of the Hart House based upon recommendations by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and a structural report by Dunbar, Milby, Williams, Pittman & Vaughan. Paint analysis done at this time showed the original exterior treatment was unpainted weatherboard. The stucco was removed from the brick foundation at this time and the modern concrete addition was removed, as were the modern outbuildings on the property. The interior of the Hart House has not yet been rehabilitated. A representative sample of the original building fabric removed during the exterior restoration is stored for future reference in an architectural salvage collection.

In addition to the main house, the farm includes four contributing structures and two contributing sites. The structures include three capped wells surrounding the Hart House, and the Hart House lane. The modern gravel drive running northwestward from Duncan Road to the front of the Hart House stands on the location of a lane that served the house at the time of the Civil War and which is shown on the attached 1867 Michler map.

The sites were investigated by Virginia Commonwealth University for VDOT in 1994. The site designated as 44DW205 is believed to be a temporary site likely from the Civil War. No sub-surface features were discovered during Phase II investigations, and the artifact assemblage was mixed, but did include brick, clay and nails which could have been left from the construction of winter huts by Brigadier General William MacRae's North Carolina troops. Today the site is covered with grass and it is unlikely to provide additional information.

The other site is identified as 44DW206, an artillery redan called the Six Gun Battery. Aerial photographs taken by VDOT show the stains of the ramparts, ditch and glacis. Archaeological excavation revealed a Confederate trash pit, roughly oblong 5.1 feet northwest-

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southeast and 4.3 feet northeast-southwest with gently sloping sides and a depth of .75 feet in the center. Two copper percussion caps and black bottle fragments were found confirming the Civil War association. Another feature discovered is the ditch of the battery estimated to be about 20 feet across and 10 feet deep; it curves completely around the exterior of the ramparts. The



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rampart is estimated to have been 15 feet high, 20 feet thick at the base and 175 feet long. The rampart was pushed into the ditch around 1934.<sup>12</sup>

**Harmon House Site**

The site on which the Harmon House once stood is now an empty open field between Duncan Road (Route 670) and Route 1. Archaeological investigations for VDOT took place on the property in 1994, and revealed the possible evidence of a slave quarter. At the time of the investigations a more modern house, built either ca. 1881-1885, or ca. 1914-1925 stood on the site of the Harmon House. Since that time the house has been removed. It is believed that the Harmon House was a simple frame structure, although further archaeological investigations would provide more detailed information on the house itself.<sup>13</sup>

**Battlefield and Earthworks**

The Battlefield (Photograph 8) at Pamplin Historical Park was the site of three separate engagements, September 30 through October 2, 1864, March 25, 1865 and April 2, 1865. These three battles raged over much of the land that today is preserved as Pamplin Historical Park. By April 2, 1865, the battlefield looked much different than that same land appears today. When Confederate troops began erecting their earthwork fortifications across the Boisseau and Hart farms, they also began cutting down the trees in the area. They used the trees for firewood and in the construction of the earthworks and the men's winter huts. By felling the trees, the Confederates gave themselves a clear field of fire in front of their trenches for their rifle-muskets and cannon. Virtually every tree within a mile of the fortifications was cut; only a few pines in nearby swamps were left standing. Union forces added to the devastation of the landscape as they constructed their own earthworks about one mile distant from the main Confederate line. The two armies left a few stumps here and there, but for the most part, the men felled the trees as close to the ground as possible. Thus, the area between the opposing lines of earthworks was almost completely cleared of all vegetation except for grass and perhaps a few bushes.

Time and the elements have had an effect on the surviving earthworks (photographs 9 and 10). All of the log revetments have long since rotted away or been removed. Erosion has reduced

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the height of the parapets from a few inches to nearly a foot and has filled in the ditch, or moat, so that it isn't as deep as it was in 1865. Timbering operations in the early 1900s resulted in the cutting of several small gaps through the earthworks. Despite these changes, the fortifications are extremely well preserved and clearly recognizable, even to the presence in places of a firing step,

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or banquette.

At one point of high ground within the park is an artillery redan, a work with two faces, which form a salient angle along a line of earthworks. This redan was probably constructed where it is because the ground in front of it is somewhat inaccessible and because its site is elevated over much of the surrounding ground. A portion of another artillery position survives to the northeast of this redan. This site appears to have been a redoubt in which two cannon were placed. Redoubts were roughly rectangular in shape and, like redans, protruded from the main line of earthworks.

At another point on the park's earthworks is a gap protected by a traverse. The gap, or "narrow opening," was left in the line so that wagons could pass through the works and bring in logs for use in constructing winter quarters or for firewood. A traverse, or mound of earth which was erected to help protect this opening, is still visible.

The Confederate soldiers constructed various types of obstructions in front of their earthworks to slow any attacking infantry formations. These included at least two and perhaps three lines of abatis, a line of fraise, and sinks or latrines between the two lines of abatis. None of these features remain.

In order to help visitors obtain a better understanding of what the physical landscape would have looked like Pamplin Historical Park constructed an earthworks exhibit a short distance from the original earthworks. This non-contributing structure is 180 feet long and is constructed of concrete. It includes an artillery platform, infantry firing step, ditch (or moat), and reproduction obstructions (abatis, fraise, and chevaux-de-frise).

Along the streambed known as Arthur's Swamp are two unusual features—the remains of earthen dams, two of several constructed by Confederate soldiers along the lines southwest of Petersburg. These dams created an inundation, or collection of water, across Arthur's Swamp. It was hoped that, by flooding the area and preventing enemy soldiers from passing through it, fewer troops would be needed to hold that portion of the earthworks. The survival of Confederate dams, such as these, is rare (photograph 11). No evidence exists that the two dams constructed across a branch of Arthur's Swamp by the Confederates actually created inundations, or ponds. It appears that a relatively dry winter and spring resulted in a drying up of the branch. The dams themselves might have appeared odd as Union troops moved past them on the morning of April 2, 1865.

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Following the picket post fight of March 25, 1865, General Samuel McGowan's South Carolinians threw up a second line of rifle pits some 200-300 yards in front of their main trench line. These pits were about ten feet apart. In some instances, a shallow trench connected two or three pits. Erosion has filled in all of the pits and the trenches that connected some of them, but otherwise, the picket posts have changed little since the end of the war, and 38 distinct holes are

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visible today (photograph 12).

A short distance behind the Confederate earthworks, the soldiers built their winter quarters. For the most part, these were log huts about 10' x 12' or smaller. The South Carolinians of McGowan's Brigade probably constructed between 350-400 of these huts during the winter of 1864-1865. North Carolinians of General William MacRae's Brigade would have built a similar number of winter quarters along Duncan Road near the Hart House. All of these huts were visible from Union lines, and some fighting occurred in the camps after the initial assaults overran the earthworks. Relatively flat areas near these winter quarters that had been agricultural fields before the fall of 1864 became drill and parade grounds for the soldiers. None of the Confederate winter quarters survive, undoubtedly being torn down shortly after the end of the war for their wood.

Despite there not being physical remains of the winter huts above ground, archaeological investigations have revealed evidence of McGowan's Winter Huts. In 1995 Browning & Associates, LTD excavated an area that had been a part of a complex of winter quarters. This phase III work uncovered three sunken winter hut sites, the first of their kind excavated in Virginia. The first hut is a rectangular 10' x 12' foundation hole with a centrally placed end chimney and a probable doorway in the southwest corner. There is an internal platform, and three stake holes probably for roof support. Hut 2 is a rectangular 6.5' x 8' hole with an offset end chimney and no evidence of a doorway. There are a series of stake holes around the edges. A South Carolina button was found in this hut. Hut 3 is a partial hut and measures 6.6' x 6.4' with an offset exterior end chimney and no evidence of internal roof supports. In addition several trash pits were discovered near the winter huts. A number of related artifacts were identified, including the soles of a pair of Brogan shoes. Other hut sites throughout the area remain to be discovered and excavated. Two of these winter hut sites can be seen today near the beginning of the battlefield trail. They are noticeable as slight rounded mounds of earth, backfilled with sand to protect their features for future investigations.

To help interpret the occupation of the area by Confederate soldiers and the life of those men during the winter of 1864-1865, Pamplin Historical Park built three replica log huts (non-contributing) like those used during the Civil War. These winter huts were carefully constructed based upon archaeological excavations of hut sites elsewhere on the property and upon

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descriptions provided by soldiers in their letters, diaries, and memoirs. They consist primarily of log walls, chinked with mud, and brick or barrel chimneys.

Three historic houses—Tudor Hall, the Banks House, and the Hart House—were a part of The Breakthrough battlefield. Each of these structures would have had several supporting outbuildings near them, and all had fences that helped indicate property boundaries or formed enclosures for animals. At least five slave quarters were located on the Boisseau property.

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During the winter of 1864-1865, most of the outbuildings, slave cabins, and fences fell prey to the hunger for wood and were gone by the time of The Breakthrough. All three houses have had their exteriors restored to their appearance in 1864-1865.

Despite the changes that have occurred in the past 138 years, the veterans of The Breakthrough undoubtedly would recognize most of the surviving elements of the battlefield, especially the earthworks and houses. Selected clearings of the forest in front of the Confederate earthworks help recall the appearance and feeling of that bloody landscape.

### Park Buildings

Pamplin Historical Park has built facilities throughout the park to interpret the events that took place and preserve the resources within its boundaries. These include six non-contributing buildings, four non-contributing structures, and one non-contributing object. Also within these areas there are two contributing archaeological sites.

Pamplin Historical Park's 7000-square-foot Battlefield Center (photograph 13) was completed in 1994. Designed by John G. Lewis, AIA, Associated Architects of Richmond, it has won awards from the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects and the Virginia Chapter of the American Concrete Institute. This unique design uses contours that mimic the alignment of the earthworks preserved on the site, through the use of poured-in-place concrete. Pamplin Park's Battlefield Center includes not only traditional exhibits of artifacts but also a theater presentation, a state-of-the-art fiber optics battlefield map, and high-tech interactive computer touch-screen programs to tell the story of the Petersburg Campaign and of the April 2, 1865, breakthrough.

Behind the Battlefield center is a non-contributing structure: The Education Pavilion, completed in 2003, it is a simple open sided wood frame building, with an asphalt roof, and enclosed washrooms. It has picnic tables for school groups.

The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier (photograph 14) was constructed in 1999 and is a non-contributing building. It has a central dome, and two wings, with a brick façade, a flat roof, and granite Doric columns at the entrance. This 25,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art

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facility tells the story of the three million men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the American Civil War. The building includes a Museum Store, the Hardtack & Coffee Café, and offices. There is one non-contributing building, one non-contributing structure, one non-contributing object, and one contributing archaeological site located near the museum. The building is the Interpretive Equipment Shed a small front gabled, wooden building with an asphalt roof, on a concrete foundation near the south end of the Museum, which holds various pieces of reproduction clothing and equipment used in interpretive demonstrations. The

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structure is a Gazebo, a six-sided structure, with a circular metal roof, which is a visitor information center in front of the museum. The object is a bronze sculpture by the entrance plaza for the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier titled "The Soldiers' Bivouac." It was done by Ron Tunison, the nation's premier sculptor of Civil War subjects and depicts two soldiers having a hurried meal

The contributing site is identified as 44DW283, which was investigated in 1995 by John Milner Associates. No subsurface features were discovered during the excavation. Phase I investigations revealed a small assemblage of domestic stoneware, and bottle fragments. Based on the artifact assemblage it was concluded that the site was a possible trash deposit or military facility.

The Operations Building was built in 1999. This front gabled building, with two side gables on the rear, is constructed of stone on three facades, and metal on the north facade with an asphalt shingle roof. It includes office space, conference and training rooms, a staff break room, storage, a carpentry shop, and the park's library. Behind the operations building is a non-contributing structure called the Pole Barn. This is a simple wood frame structure with a tin roof and saltbox-shaped front gable. This structure has a small concrete storage room in the center with one door and no windows. The contributing site is 44DW210, which was excavated by Virginia Commonwealth University for VDOT in 1994. The findings from this Phase II excavation were unclear as it revealed no subsurface features and the artifact assemblage was a mixture of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century objects. No military objects were found, but based on their location, and because the area has been heavily metal detected, it is possible it is a military facility.

The Park Administrative headquarters is in a former private residence that probably dates from the 1950s. This is a one-story, side-gabled brick building with an asphalt shingle roof, connected to a brick, two-story, two-car garage with space above. The structure was rehabilitated in 1995 to serve as the administrative offices of the park. Located near the administrative building are two non-contributing structures. The first is the Powder magazine, a front gabled wooden shed with a tin roof, and barn-like doors, which provides storage for the gunpowder used

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in interpretative demonstrations. The second is the Old Logging Roadway. Timbering operations in the 1930s resulted in the construction of access roads for hauling logs from sites east and west of Duncan Road. Some of these roads passed through cuts made in the earthworks. Depressions where these roads existed can still be seen, although erosion had obscured them. The remnants of one logging road are located immediately south of the park administrative headquarters, running from Duncan Road toward the earthworks.

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**Non-Park Buildings**

Within the boundaries of the district are three non-contributing buildings two of which are residences and one of which is a clubhouse. There is also one contributing site located near the clubhouse property. The residences are at 6507 and 6513 Duncan Road. The house at 6507 is a one-and-a-half-story, side gabled, frame building with two wings and an asphalt shingle roof. The largest wing has a central door, flanked by two bays on each side, and two dormers. The small wing has two bays. The house at 6513 Duncan Road is a one-story, gable-roofed, ranch-style brick house with an asphalt shingle roof. Both houses were constructed ca. 1950. The S.T. Gerow Ruritan Club House is at 6501 Duncan Road. It is a ca.1930 rustic-style building made of logs with an asphalt roof. The contributing site is identified as 44DW209, and was investigated by Virginia Commonwealth University for VDOT in 1994. The findings from this excavation, as at 44DW210 were unclear as it revealed no subsurface features and the artifact assemblage was a mixture of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century objects. No military objects were found, but based on its location, and because the area has been heavily metal detected, it is possible it is a military facility.

**Summary**

The Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield contains diverse elements—a Civil War battlefield that saw three battles, Confederate earthworks (including picket posts and two dams), four historic buildings, a family cemetery, archaeological sites, and non-contributing buildings and structures. The historic buildings, though owned by different families, all played a role in the Breakthrough Battle of April 2, 1865. Some of the property owned by Pamplin Historical Park is non-contiguous, and there are several “in-holdings” (modern buildings). Because of these two factors and because the elements owned by the park all relate together, this nomination is for a historic district rather than an individual historic site.

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**Endnotes for Section 7**

<sup>1</sup>John Milner Associates, Inc., “Historic Structure Report for Tudor Hall, Dinwiddie County, Virginia,” Volume I, “Historical Background and Evaluation,” Prepared for Pamplin Park Civil War Site, 1995, pp. II-3, II-10.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. III-14.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., pp. III-14 through III-16.

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. III-16.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., pp. III-16 through III-17.

<sup>6</sup>Basalik, Kenneth J., "Archaeological Investigations at Tudor Hall," for Pamplin Park Civil War Site, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, December 1997, p.54.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 34.

<sup>8</sup>Don Swofford, AIA, and Dan Pezzoni, "Banks House Historic Structures Report," for Pamplin Park Civil War Site, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, March 31, 1999, p. 45.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., pp. 38-45.

<sup>10</sup>Swofford and Pezzoni, "Banks House Historic Structures Report," pp. 50-52.

<sup>11</sup>Luke H. Boyd, "Phase 2 Architectural and Historical Significance Evaluation of the Hart house (VDHR 26-163) in Dinwiddie County, Virginia," Prepared for the Virginia Department of Transportation, 1993, pp 7-12.

<sup>12</sup>L. Daniel Mouer, Douglas C. McLearen, R. Taft Kiser, Christopher P. Egghart, Luke H. Boyd, and Beverly J. Binns, "Duncan Road, An Evaluation of Archaeological Sites Along Route 670 (Duncan Road) in Dinwiddie County, Va.," (Richmond: Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center, 1994), pp.40-60.

<sup>13</sup>Slave Schedules, 1860 Census, Dinwiddie County; Ibid., pp.70-80.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Summary Statement of Significance

The Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield Historic District at Pamplin Historical Park (Pamplin Historical Park), in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, is nationally significant for military history under Criterion A because it brought to an end the extremely important Petersburg Campaign, one of the longest and one of the last campaigns of the Civil War. It is the place















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1850 that number had dropped to four, all of them between the ages of 40 and 70. The census for the latter year showed that he was operating the property as a market farm. He was growing Indian corn, oats, wheat, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. These items were helping to supply the need for fresh produce in nearby Petersburg. Also by 1850, the size of the property had been reduced to 231 acres. There are no records to explain the reduction. Banks called his farm "Wakefield." This name probably came from the popular novel by Oliver Goldsmith, The Vicar of Wakefield.<sup>31</sup>

Thomas Banks died on or before November 1, 1853. Margaret Banks inherited the property, but she soon formalized an arrangement with her son, John, whereby he would "live with her and manage her farm and other business." In exchange, he would pay her \$150 a year. By 1860 the farm was still growing market produce, but John had added tobacco agriculture.<sup>32</sup>

John R. Banks joined a local home guard unit that became Company B, 3rd Virginia Battalion Reserves. Unfortunately, his enlistment date is not known and little is known about his military service. The only surviving record states that, in March 1865, he was detailed from his company for unspecified reasons. His battalion sometimes performed guard duty at various points in Petersburg. No record of his capture or parole at the end of the war exists. It seems likely that, with the Breakthrough on April 2, he simply went home instead of accompanying the Confederate army as it evacuated the city and marched toward Appomattox Court House.<sup>33</sup>

The most significant activity at the Banks House during the war occurred on the morning of April 2, 1865, when it became the headquarters of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. We do not know precisely when he and his staff reached the house, but they

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were there at 10:45a.m., at which time Grant dictated telegrams announcing that the Confederate earthworks along the Boydton Plank Road had all been captured by Union troops. On the night of April 1, Grant and his staff were at Dabney's Mill. They left that point some time after the Breakthrough and rode toward Petersburg. A staff officer recalled that they crossed the Confederate earthworks captured by the Sixth Corps, which may indicate that the party rode up Duncan Road. After meeting with Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, at the Harmon House, Grant and his staff moved closer to Petersburg and reached the Banks House.<sup>34</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Horace Porter, one of Grant's aides-de-camp, described it as "a farm-house, which stood on a knoll." From this point, Grant had a good view of the Confederate earthworks surrounding Petersburg and of the detached works of Fort Gregg and Fort Whitworth.

The general dismounted in the yard and sat down at the base of a tree, where he received dispatches and wrote orders. After a time, Confederate artillerymen opened fire on the group of officers and kept up the bombardment for about fifteen minutes. Members of the general's staff tried unsuccessfully for a while to persuade him to move to a safer position. Finally, Grant



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### Banks House Kitchen/Quarter

The kitchen/quarter building located behind the Banks house was built by Thomas Banks about 1840 or 1850. The Kitchen/Quarter is a rare example of a surviving slave quarter and is a late example of brace timber framing. It is unique in its symmetrical placement of windows and doors with a central chimney. This building is essentially two separate apartments on either side of a shared center chimney and covered with a single roof. Each side provided a living space for one slave family, with a room downstairs for living and working and a loft overhead for sleeping. The southern half of the duplex served as the Banks house kitchen and probably was occupied by the cook and her family. The northern half, called a "servant's hall," was likely occupied by a domestic servant. Activities here might have included washing or spinning and weaving. The double-pen design and frame construction of the Banks House quarter is typical of Big House slave quarters built during the late antebellum period in Virginia. The Banks House Kitchen/Quarter is one of the few surviving slave quarters in the state. The rarity of the building type as well as the historic integrity of its design makes the Banks House Kitchen/Quarter eligible for the National Register.<sup>40</sup>

The Banks House and its kitchen/quarter outbuilding are located on a parcel that is separated from the rest of the Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield Historic District. However, given its relationship to the historical events that unfolded on the larger battlefield property and

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given its association as the headquarters of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant during the Breakthrough the Banks House is included in the historic district as a discontiguous parcel.

## The Hart House and Farm

The land known as the Hart Farm once was a part of the Boisseau family's Tudor Hall plantation. Charles H. Carr, a native of New York, bought 20 acres from Athaliah Boisseau for \$300 on March 9, 1859. The deed described this property as bounded on the north by Joseph G. Boisseau, on the south by Dr. Albert W. Boisseau, on the east by Joseph G. Boisseau, and on the west by "Dunkins" Road.<sup>41</sup> On November 1, 1859, Carr deeded his 20 acres to his wife, Aria, for \$1.00. He did not present this document or the deed from Athaliah Boisseau to the County Court until December 10, 1860. The county tax assessor first recorded the transfer from Athaliah Boisseau to Carr in 1861. The total value of the land and buildings was placed at \$800. From this assessment, it appears that Carr had at least begun construction on a Gothic Revival cottage.<sup>42</sup>

At some unknown date after Virginia joined the Confederacy on April 17, 1861, Carr joined the 83rd Regiment of the state militia. He was assigned from the militia to Company B, 41st Virginia Infantry Regiment, and enlisted as a private on April 11, 1862. He was admitted to





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washed up & burned his old clothes before he dared enter the house—he was so dirty & lousy." This must have been a happy reunion, because Mary Hart had not known her husband's fate and probably feared him dead.<sup>47</sup>

Hart had difficulty making ends meet once he resumed farming after the war. Ultimately he was unable to repay the entirety of the sale price to Aria Carr and through the course of several lawsuits the property was eventually sold in May 1876 to J.C. Smith who bought it for \$400.00. Smith had also purchased Dr. Albert Boisseau's 200-acre farm, adjoining the Hart/Carr property on the east and south two years earlier.<sup>48</sup> The Smith family retained the farm until 1904 at which point it passed through several hands before the Pamplin Foundation purchased 59.17 acres in 2000.<sup>49</sup>

The Hart House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style of architecture.<sup>50</sup> As an excellent example of a rural pattern-book Gothic Revival cottage the Hart House is architecturally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Harmon House Site

The Harmon house belonged to John W. Harmon, a farmer who had been sheriff of  
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Dinwiddie County in the late 1850s. He purchased 35 acres at the intersection of the Boydton Plank Road and Duncan Road from Athaliah K. W. G. Boisseau on December 8, 1858, for \$800. This property had been part of the lands of her deceased husband, William, and was referred to in the deed as "Radcliffs'."<sup>51</sup> No evidence on the origin of that name exists. The date when a house was built on the property is unknown, but one was there by 1860. Archaeologists have speculated that it was a simple frame structure similar to the Hart House. On some maps of the Petersburg Campaign, the Harmon house is labeled "Red House." Some wartime documents call Duncan Road the Harmon Road. It is not known if Harmon and his family remained in the house during the fall and winter of 1864-1865 or if Harmon served in the Confederate army. On the afternoon of April 2, 1865, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and Major General George G. Meade briefly made the house their headquarters. One Union account states that the house had been occupied by "a Rebel ordnance sergeant," who left behind some of his personal papers when he hurriedly left it. Signal Corps personnel established a telegraph line from the house to the signal tower on the Peebles farm.<sup>52</sup>

Harmon could not repay some pre-war debts, and he sold his property to Emma Cardwell in September 1867 for \$520. Fifteen other people owned the property during the following 53 years. Mary L. Bowman purchased the property in 1944. By 1994, her grandson, Robert Bowman, owned the tract. On October 16, 1997, his wife, Roberta Joyce Gay Bowman, sold the site of the Harmon house (28.706 acres) to the Pamplin Foundation.<sup>53</sup>

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The original house was probably destroyed between either 1881-1885 or 1914-1925. A new structure built during one of those time periods stood on the original house site at the time Pamplin Historical Park acquired the property. Archaeological investigations in 1994 for the Virginia Department of Transportation before changes were made to Duncan Road indicated that a slave quarter might have stood a short distance south of the house. The 1860 census shows that Harmon owned two female slaves and rented a male slave.<sup>54</sup>

The Harmon House Site is significant as the site of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's Headquarters. Additionally, the Harmon House site has potential for yielding archaeological information.

## Archaeology

Several archaeological excavations have been conducted on the property that is now Pamplin Historical Park. While many sites and features have already been discovered, several of these need to be further investigated, and many areas of the district remain to be tested. The information potential from these archaeological investigations, and the importance of this

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information make Pamplin Historical Park eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

In 1992, Browning & Associates, Ltd., of Richmond, Virginia, did a survey of eleven sites designated as 44DW201 by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. This work was followed up in 1995 by Phase III excavations of several of the surveyed sites. The excavations revealed the remains of three sunken Confederate winter quarters huts, one of which was incomplete. Several features associated with the hut sites may have been trash pits. These hut sites are unique for the area, as all previously recorded winter huts South of the Rappahannock had been surface occupied. Additionally, these huts are the only known sunken huts to be scientifically excavated to date, which has provided a research potential previously unexamined.

Between these three huts there is a visible difference in construction styles based on individual preferences. The information gained from these investigations has greatly added to our understanding of Civil War soldier life, and it is likely that more remains exist all over the property.<sup>55</sup>

Virginia Commonwealth University's Archaeological Research Center conducted work for the Virginia Department of Transportation on several sites along Duncan Road in 1994. One excavation was made at 44DW201 on the east side of the road and another on the west side that is designated at 44DW207. Both of these sites were determined to have been the remains of slave quarters that were part of the Tudor Hall Plantation. A subsequent investigation indicates that the site east of Duncan Road was a Confederate winter hut rather than a slave quarter. There is the potential for discovery of additional soldier huts and slave cabins on the site since the

Personnel from CHRS performed archaeological excavations and historical research around Tudor Hall during the summer of 1997. CHRS identified the location of an early nineteenth-century outbuilding, a mid-nineteenth-century summer kitchen, a possible mid-nineteenth-century outbuilding, and the Boisseau family cemetery. The research conducted







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<sup>34</sup>OR, XLVI, Pt. 3, pp. 447, 449, 459, 496; Horace Porter, Campaigning With Grant (Secaucus, N. J.: The Blue and Grey Press, 1984), pp. 446-47.

<sup>35</sup>Porter, Campaigning With Grant, p. 447; Adam Badeau, Military History of Ulysses S. Grant, From April, 1861, to April, 1865, 2 vols. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1881), Vol. II, pp. 516-17.

<sup>36</sup>Porter, *Campaigning With Grant*, p. 449.

<sup>37</sup>Population and Agricultural Schedules, 1870 Census, Dinwiddie County; Petersburg Index, August 25, November 22, 1871; Dinwiddie County Will Book 8, p. 564; Dinwiddie County Deed Book 13, pp. 24-25; Dinwiddie County Will Book 10, pp. 85-86.

<sup>38</sup>Dinwiddie County Deed Book 24, p. 509; Deed Book 291, p. 269; Deed Book 440, pp. 177, 180.

<sup>39</sup>Don Swofford, AIA, and Dan Pezzoni, "Banks House, Historic Structures Report," for Pamplin Park Civil War Site, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, March 31, 1999, pp. 38-46.

<sup>40</sup>Swofford and Pezzoni, "Banks House," pp. 50-52.

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## Endnotes, continued

<sup>41</sup>Dinwiddie County Deed Book 10, pp. 254-55; Dinwiddie County Court Minute Book, 1858-1863, p. 348.

<sup>42</sup>Dinwiddie County Deed Book 10, p. 255; County Court Minute Book, 1858-1863, p. 348; Dinwiddie County Land Tax Book, 1858-1863; Luke H. Boyd, "Phase 2 Architectural and Historical Significance Evaluation of the Hart House (VDHR26-163) in Dinwiddie County, Virginia: A Report Prepared for the Virginia Department of Transportation, Richmond, Virginia" (Richmond, Va.: Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center, 1993), pp. 7, 10.

<sup>43</sup>William D. Henderson, 41st Virginia Infantry (Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1986), pp. 12-14; Lee A. Wallace, Jr., A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations, 1861-1865 (Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1986), pp. 236, 241; Compiled Service Records, M324, Roll 861.

<sup>44</sup>Carr vs. Carr 1874.

<sup>45</sup>Johnson to Lobb, July 18, 1965.

<sup>46</sup>Compiled Service Records, M324, Roll. 400.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.; Johnson to Lobb, July 18, 1965.

<sup>48</sup>Dinwiddie County Deed Book 13, pp. 517-18; Deed Book 14, pp. 233-34; Johnson to Lobb, July 18, 1965.

<sup>49</sup>Deed Book 16, pp. 730, 752; Deed Book 19, No. 2, p. 452; Deed Book 49, p. 457; Deed Book 72, p. 94; Deed Book 86, p. 417; Dinwiddie County Will Book 11, p. 283.



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<sup>54</sup>Slave Schedules, 1860 Census, Dinwiddie County; L. Daniel Mouer, Douglas C. McLearn, R. Taft Kiser, Christopher P. Egghart, Luke H. Boyd, and Beverly J. Binns, "Duncan Road, An Evaluation of Archaeological Sites Along Route 670 (Duncan Road) in Dinwiddie County, Va.," (Richmond: Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center, 1994), pp. 70-80.

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## Endnotes, continued

<sup>56</sup>Laura J. Galke, and Donna J. Seifert, "Archaeological Investigations at Tudor Hall, Site 44DW284, Pamplin Historical Park, Dinwiddie County, Virginia" (West Chester, Pa.: John Milner Associates, Inc., 1995; report prepared for Pamplin Historical Park and Farmer, Puckett, Warner Architects), p. 13

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for Pamplin Historical Park are shown as a dark line on the accompanying sketch map.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the surviving battlefield and earthwork fortifications where the Union breakthrough of the Confederate defenses of Petersburg occurred on April 2, 1865. This boundary also encompasses the core acreage of the Boisseau Farm, including their home (Tudor Hall) and the probable sites of outbuildings such as a barn, a kitchen, a dairy, privies, and slave cabins. The site of the Boisseau family cemetery is also within the boundary. The boundaries also include the Hart Farm, including the Gothic Revival Hart House. Surrounding property on Duncan Road was not included as it has lost its historic integrity. Although on a parcel separated from the larger historic district, the Banks House, its Kitchen/Quarter and the land surrounding the house have been included to make a discontinuous district. The house and land were Grant's headquarters during The

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VIEW OF: Hart House; view looking northeast

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VIEW OF: Hart House, view looking northwest  
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VIEW OF: Battlefield, view looking northwest  
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VIEW OF: Earthworks, view looking northeast  
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VIEW OF: Earthworks, view looking northwest  
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VIEW OF: Dam, view looking northwest  
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VIEW OF: Rifle Pit, view looking east  
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VIEW OF: Battlefield Center; view looking east  
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VIEW OF: National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, view looking southwest  
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